

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A nickel-metal hydride storage battery comprising a negative electrode mainly composed of a hydrogen absorbing alloy, a positive electrode, a separator and an alkaline electrolyte wherein a fluorocarbon resin has a particle diameter of 0.05-1.0 μm and is present in single particle state on the surface of the negative electrode.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) A nickel-metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the fluorocarbon resin is 0.0005-0.005 g per 1 cm^2 of the negative electrode.

4. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a negative electrode for batteries which includes a step of forming a hydrogen absorbing alloy layer on both sides of an electrically conductive support by coating hydrogen absorbing alloy powders on both sides of the support, drying the coat and pressing the coated support, a step of preparing a dispersion of fluorocarbon resin in single

particle state by mixing a mixed liquid comprising fluorocarbon resin particles and a liquid solvent thereby dispersing the fluorocarbon resin particles in the liquid solvent, and a step of spraying or coating the dispersion of the fluorocarbon resin particles in single particle state on the surface of both the hydrogen absorbing alloy layers and drying the resulting coat.

5. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a negative electrode for batteries according to claim 4, wherein the mixing is carried out using a high-speed mixer.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a negative electrode for batteries according to claim 4, wherein the mixing is carried out using an ultrasonic homogenizer.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a negative electrode for batteries according to claim 4, wherein a surface active agent is added to the mixed liquid.